

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Cultural Arts Commission convened in a regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 16, 2006, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Miranda led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Armstrong, Miranda, Smisek, Smith, Strehler, Wang, and Chairperson Stadler.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Cultural Services Manager Myers,
Senior Supervisor McClelland,
Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson, and
Cultural Services Consultant Powers.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Strehler moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Smisek moved for the approval of the September 18, 2006 Cultural Arts Commission meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Armstrong and passed by unanimous voice vote approval.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6A. REVIEW CRITERIA FOR EXCELLENCE IN ARTS AWARDS

Cultural Services Manager Myers introduced the item and requested that Commissioners review the current criteria for Excellence in Arts awards and discuss any changes that may better define each category. He stated that the Literary Arts area requires further definition as far as what the Commission is looking for in awardees. He noted that current criteria for all Excellence in Arts categories as well as the definition of literature by Webster Dictionary were included in the agenda material.

Following a brief discussion, it was decided by consensus of Commissioners that Literary Arts should be kept as an Excellence in Arts award category.

Commissioners received clarification that current criteria states that awardees should provide service to the Torrance community through the arts regardless of residence or place of work.

Cultural Services Manager Myers noted that it was legitimate to not award Literary Arts, or any category, every year. He suggested that the Commission might want to consider expanding or narrowing the focus of the Literary Arts category.

When Commissioners indicated that the category of Literary Arts should focus on creative writing, Cultural Services Manager Myers recommended that the subcommittee responsible for Literary Arts should ask outside sources, such as the South Bay Manuscript Society, to recommend nominees who write in or about Torrance.

MOTION: Commissioner Smith moved to add the following criteria to the Literary Arts category: "The class of writings distinguished for beauty of style or expression, as poetry, playwriting, essays, or history, in distinction from scientific treatises and works which contain positive knowledge." Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

It was determined to leave all other criteria for Excellence in Arts awards as it currently is.

6B. L.A. COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION FORUM FOR ARTS COMMISSIONERS

Cultural Services Manager Myers announced an annual Forum for Arts Commissioners on October 28, 2006 in the City of Culver City and asked that Commissioners RSVP to his office by October 24, 2006. Commissioners Miranda, Smisek, Armstrong, and Chairperson Stadler indicated that they were interested in attending the event.

7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

7A. EXCELLENCE IN ARTS

Previously discussed at this meeting.

7B. COMMUNITY CULTURAL PLAN

No report.

7C. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

No report.

8. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson thanked Commissioners for attending the opening reception of the fall exhibition of Hiro Yamagata's "Air" at the Torrance Art Museum on October 14, 2006. She reported that the Museum is now open Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 6:00 p.m. through December 9, 2006. She stated that

statistics reveal that 5,980 visitors attended the Museum for the six major exhibitions in its first year, adding that the Museum was open 1,229 hours and had 2,094 volunteer hours. She provided details about the volunteer recognition luncheon on October 13, 2006. She announced Artful Days with Mary Drobny on October 17, 2006 and an art talk with historian Dr. Sam Hunter on November 18, 2006.

Senior Supervisor McClelland reported that "The Glass Menagerie," November 3-12, 2006 at the Nakano Theatre, will feature four new performers and a new director. He announced that Starlight Productions will present "Annie" in February 2007 at the Armstrong Theatre, featuring a cast of 86 children. He commended Torrance Art Museum staff for a successful first year.

Cultural Services Consultant Powers distributed the June 4, 2006 Ooodles of Noodles Program Report, noting that there were 800 visitors, 90 performing artists, 60 volunteers, and 21 participating restaurants. He encouraged Commissioners to attend Starters! at the Torrance Art Museum on November 2, 2006 featuring Dj Ant. He provided an update on "Executive Order 9066" focusing on the Japanese American internment, noting that there was an information meeting on October 3, 2006 to discuss the production with representatives from Japanese American cultural and community organizations. He stated that Torrance Library planned to produce companion events.

In response to Commissioner Strehler's inquiry regarding the Arts Alive! Festival, Cultural Services Consultant Powers advised her to contact General Services for information about next year's event.

Commissioner Smith stated that it would be nice if General Services would attend Commission meetings to answer questions.

9. ORALS

9A. Commissioner Smisek stated that she enjoyed the Torrance Art Museum opening reception as well as participating in the Torrance Historical Society's Tour of Historic Homes last weekend.

9B. Commissioner Smith stated that she also enjoyed the home tour as well as the Bobs jazz concert at the Nakano Theatre.

9C. Commissioner Miranda shared information about Filipino American events this month that included a Library Gala at the Biltmore on October 14, 2006.

9D. Commissioner Armstrong stated that she enjoyed the Torrance Police Department Open House and commented that she saw a magnificent mural there. She stated that she also attended the Aquarium of the Pacific and read aloud an announcement that former Commissioner Mary Miller received the Martin P. Mathison service award.

9E. Commissioner Strehler stated that she enjoyed the Arts Alive! Festival and the Torrance Artist Guild art exhibit, the Torrance Police Department Open House, and working as a docent for the home tour.

9F. Commissioner Wang stated that she recently returned from a visit to China.

9G. Chairperson Stadler stated that she enjoyed the Police Department Open House, "Cabaret," the jazz concert, and the cast party for "The Man Who Came to Dinner."

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:18 p.m., Commissioner Armstrong moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, November 20, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Wang seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Stadler so ordered.

Approved as Amended November 20, 2006 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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